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| 10/055,811 | 01/23/2002 | Clarbruno Vedruccio | U 013839-0 | 7403 |
| 140 | 7590 | 03/25/2004 | EXAMINER | |
| LADAS & PARRY 26 WEST 61ST STREET NEW YORK, NY 10023 | | | SODERQUIST, ARLEN | |
| | | | ART UNIT | PAPER NUMBER |
| | | | 1743 | |
| DATE MAILED: 03/25/2004 | | | | |

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/055,811

Applicant(s)

VEDRUCCIO, CLARBRUNO

Examiner

Arlen Soderquist

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1743

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 2-26-02.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: ____.

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1. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: on page 5 lines 1-2 make reference to the scopes and technical characteristics are found from the claims. Since the scope of the claims can change, those things which this statement is referring to need to be placed in the specification so that the scope of the disclosure does not change as the claims change.

Appropriate correction is required.

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-2, 4-6 and 8 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Arjavalasingam or Robertson.

In the paper Arjavalasingam investigates anisotropic conductivity in stretch-oriented polymers with coherent microwave transient spectroscopy (COMITS). Stretch-oriented and doped polyacetylene and polyaniline are characterized using the coherent microwave transient spectroscopy technique. Conductivities parallel and perpendicular to the direction of elongation are determined. The measured orientation dependence of the sample transmissions is observed to follow the predictions of theory. Figure 1 shows a diagram of the device which consists of a transmitting and receiving antenna with the sample therebetween. The antenna radiate frequencies between 0 and 150 GHz and general details of the process are found in the experimental section. The last sentence of page 6 refers one to other references for additional details of the experimental technique.

In the paper Robertson discusses broadband microwave dielectric properties of polymers. Coherent microwave transient spectroscopy can be used to determine the complex dielectric properties of materials over a broad frequency range; the technique is based on radiation and detection of picosecond-duration electromagnetic transients by optoelectronically pulsed antennas. The technique is illustrated for a polyimide and a polyamide and doped polyacetylene. The apparatus is shown in figure 1 and is the same as in Arjavalasingam.

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4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

5. Claims 3, 7 and 9-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arjavalasingam or Robertson as applied to claims 1-2 above, and further in view of Bianco, Fraser, Li, Campbell or Kruger. Arjavalasingam or Robertson cover the frequency range but do not investigate biological materials.

In the paper Bianco presents an improved system for microwave spectroscopy of small biological samples. A method is presented to measure the complex dielectric constant of biological liquids in the frequency range 100-2000 MHz. With such measurements, it is possible to obtain useful information about microscopic properties of living matter, with possible diagnostic applications.

In the paper Fraser uses microwave thermography to measure an index of inflammatory joint disease. Microwave thermography is a technique measuring microwave emission from sites of inflammation. Microwaves have a wavelength of around 10 cm are therefore able to penetrate clinically useful depths of up to 4 cm directly measuring tissue thermal radiation. A microwave detector was applied to the study of joint inflammation in rheumatoid arthritis and in a normal control group. Fifty-two knees were scanned using the detector and a microwave thermographic index was calculated for each knee. A strong correlation was found between the microwave thermographic index, and the clinical and laboratory parameters measured. This technique was found to be reproducible, quick, simple to use at the bedside without a controlled

environment and, since it measures internally emitted radiation, is inherently safe.

In the paper (see the English abstract) Li presents microwave radiometry in the detection of esophageal cancer. A flow diagram of microwave radiation in layered human tissues was obtained basing on the principles of bioelectromagnetics and biomedical engineering. Some important problems related to the detection of esophageal cancer by Model 846 microwave cancer detector were also studied. As a result an appropriate method and a set of diagnostic criteria which would be processed by microcomputer were obtained. Of 67 cases examined by Model 846 detector, 17 of 21 cases of esophageal cancer were positive, a true positive rate of 81%, while 36 of 46 control cases were negative, a true negative rate of 78.3%. The results indicate that this method might be of great value in the screening and early diagnosis of esophageal cancer.

In the paper Campbell discusses the dielectric properties of female human breast tissue measured *in-vitro* at 3.2 GHz. Complex permittivities of in vitro diseased and undiseased human female breast tissues have been measured at 3.2 GHz using a resonant cavity technique. Ranges of dielectric properties and water contents of these tissues are presented. Experimental data are compared with models predicted from mixture equations. Measured permittivity data lie within limits set by two-phase mixture theory, but some conductivity data are in excess of those expected for a mixture of saline and protein. At any particular microwave frequency of all tissue of a given type, the relationship between permittivity and conductivity may be parametrized using the Debye relaxation equations. For each breast tissue type a characteristic relaxation frequency was calculated and found to be lower than that of physiological saline at the same temperature. It is concluded that the dielectric relaxation of tissue water is not the only dispersive process occurring at this frequency: dielectric relaxation of bound water and the tail end of a σ -dispersion may also contribute to the dielectric properties. The similarity of the dielectric properties of benign and malignant breast tumors measured in this work suggest that in vivo dielectric imaging methods will not be capable of distinguishing them.

In the paper Kruger discusses a medical imaging paradigm related to Thermoacoustic CT with radio waves. The authors evaluated images obtained with a prototypic thermoacoustic computed tomographic (CT) scanner constructed for use at 434 MHz, a promising radio frequency for detecting breast cancer. In one excised porcine kidney, acoustic energy emanating

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from the kidney was detected with transducers. The resultant electric signals were used to create a three-dimensional data set. Two-dimensional images reconstructed in multiple planes were compared with state-of-the-art T1- and T2-weighted magnetic resonance images. The renal outline, parenchyma, and collecting system were clearly delineated on the thermoacoustic CT images.

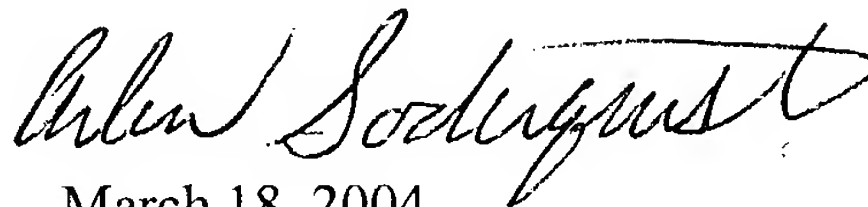
It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to measure biological samples as taught by Bianco, Fraser, Li, Campbell or Kruger at the respective wavelengths taught in the Arjavalingham or Robertson devices because of the ability to measure objects with broadband radiation as taught by Arjavalingham or Robertson and the desirability of the information available relative to clinical diagnosis at the frequencies of Bianco, Fraser, Li, Campbell and Kruger.

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. The additional art cited relates to investigation of biological materials with electromagnetic waves.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Arlen Soderquist whose current telephone number is (571) 272-1265 as a result of the examiner moving to the new USPTO location. The examiner's schedule is variable between the hours of about 5:30 AM to about 5:00 PM on Monday through Thursday and alternate Fridays.

A general phone number for the organization to which this application is assigned is (571) 272-1700. The fax phone number to file official papers for this application or proceeding is (703) 872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



March 18, 2004

ARLEN SODERQUIST
PRIMARY EXAMINER